

Current Recreational Spotted Seatrout Regulations

Spotted Seatrout must have minimum of 13 inches total length (TL) to harvest, with a bag limit of 15 fish per person per day.

Current Commercial Spotted Seatrout Regulations

Spotted Seatrout must have minimum length of 14 inches (TL) to harvest

Size limit will remain at 14 inches (TL) for the commercial fishery.

Annual Quota: 50,000 pounds

- Commercial fishermen have a 50,000-pound quota, and their Spotted Seatrout season shuts down once this is reached.
- Even if the quota isn't reached, commercial fishermen have an annual season that is closed from November 1 – January 31 of each year.
- Commercial fishermen are not allowed to fish north of the CSX railroad.
- Individuals harvesting Spotted Seatrout for sale must possess a Spotted Seatrout endorsement

Recreational Spotted Seatrout Changes for 2017

Spotted Seatrout must have minimum length of 15 inches (TL) to harvest, with a bag limit of 15 fish per person per day (**Commission on Marine Resources (CMR) proposed regulatory change**)

Season closure from January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017 for one year only (**CMR Administrative Decision**)

Commonly Asked Questions Regarding the Regulation Changes

1. How soon could this regulation go into effect?
 - The Notice of Intent filed on October 19, 2016 has an implementation date of January 1, 2017 as the earliest possible start date.
2. Why are Spotted Seatrout currently in decline?
 - Fishing mortality for Spotted Seatrout has increased exponentially due to overfishing. Figure 4.14 from the 2016 Stock Assessment for Spotted Seatrout in Mississippi shows the dramatic decline of estimated biomass in recent years.

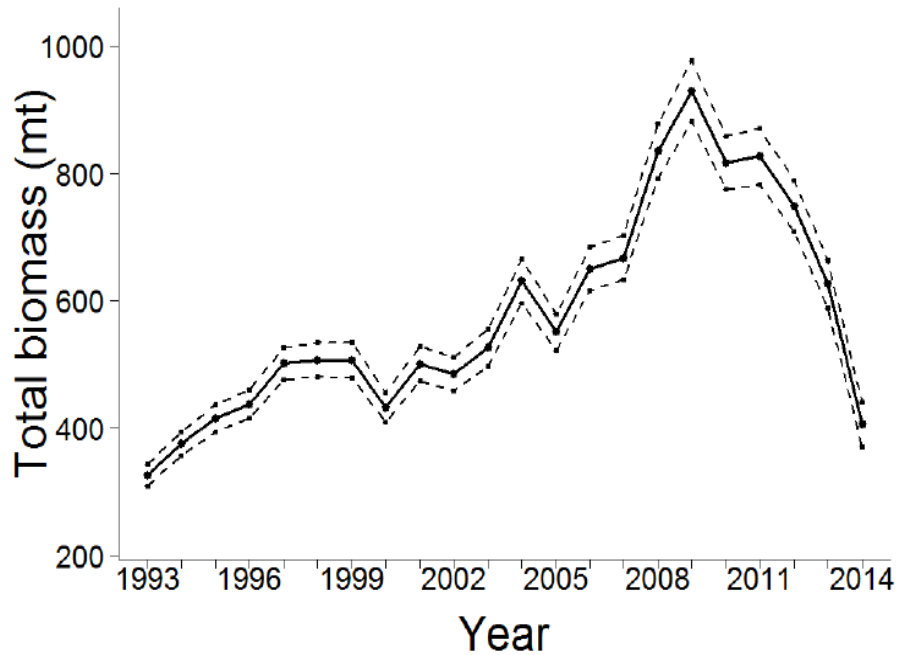


Figure 4.14. Base model estimates of the total biomass in Mississippi from 1993 to 2014. The solid black line is the point estimate and the dashed lines represent \pm one standard deviation.

3. Who does this impact?
 - The new regulation and season closure will apply to ALL recreational fishermen who are fishing in Mississippi territorial waters.
4. Does this effect Commercial Fishermen?
 - The current regulation changes are for recreational anglers only; commercial fishermen will not be affected.
5. How old is a 13-, 14-, or 15-inch Spotted Seatrout?
 - It depends on the sex and productivity level of the region but most of the Spotted Seatrout are between 1 year and 2.5 years old when 13-15 inches long.
6. How do recreational and commercial anglers compare when fishing for Spotted Seatrout?

	Current Recreational Spotted Seatrout Regulations	Current Commercial Spotted Seatrout Regulations
Minimum Size Allowed	13 Inches	14 Inches
Bag Limit	15 Fish Per Day Per Person	50,000 Lbs. Per Year
Season	Open All Year	February - October
Areas Restricted for Harvest	No Restrictions	No Harvest North of CSX Train Bridges or Within One Mile of Ship, Horn, Sand or Petit Bois Islands
License Required	Recreational Fishing License	Commercial Hook & Line and Spotted Seatrout Endorsement
Number of Licenses Sold (annually)	80,194	95
Total Landings 2012-2016	3,952,201 pounds	223,879 pounds